

HOW TO LEARN:

AN ADDRESS,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE STUDENTS OF

HOLLY SPRINGS ACADEMY,

WAKE COUNTY, N. C.

THIRD OF JUNE, 1859.

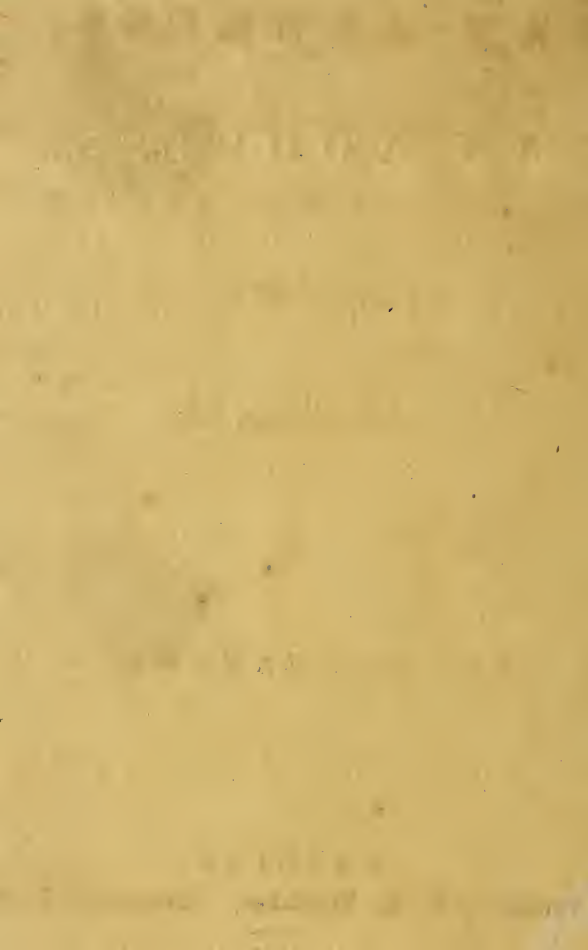
BY

EDWARD CANTWELL.

RALEIGH.

Printed by R. H. Whitaker, "Democratic Press."

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ADDRESS.

FELLOW-CITIZENS OF HOLLY SPRINGS,

AND YOUNG GENTLEMEN OF THE ACADEMY:

It is not often that we enjoy the pleasure of seeing so many citizens of this part of our county together. You live here, nearly twenty miles from the Capitol and about an equal distance from any railway. I did not find the road this morning, quite so smooth as that which the ancient poets represent to have led to the lower regions—it rather partook of the opposite character, and justifies therefore the pleasing anticipations of this visit which I do now realize. I am glad to see many other citizens of Raleigh present. I am glad that these opportunities are occasionally presented, for a pleasant social intercourse between the town and the country. I am sure, that they will contribute to the mutual benefit—dissipate prejudice—encourage a better acquaintance, and promote good feeling.

This school house before which we are now on this pleasant day assembled, my presence here, and this attentive and respectable audience, composed of the young gentlemen who have honored me with the invitation to address them, and, for the most part, of the fathers and mothers of the village and surrounding country, indicate very clearly, that the people of this part of Wake county—known abroad as the Dark Corner—and especially those of them whose children are large enough to go to school, are alive to the duties of their position.

We feel, ladies and gentlemen, that it is incumbent upon us to provide for the future wants of the community to which we belong—that we are bound to supply them at a convenient distance from home the opportunities and facilities for acquiring at least the elements of common information and knowledge;

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because, deprived of them, we feel, that these boys and young men, when they go into the world, would hardly be thought much more of, than the perishing brutes by which we are surrounded.

History sacred and profane, and nature in its daily manifestations conspire to impress us, very strikingly, with the strength and the universality of that sentiment of parental tenderness these things indicate. Speculating upon it, Solomon acquired the reputation for wisdom which has survived even his temple and kingdom. There was a child, you recollect, in dispute between two women. He directed the infant to be cut in two, and one half given to each of the contestants. The pretended mother at once accepted the proposition, but the true author of the little innocent's being spoke, when she said: 'The child is mine, but save its life, my lord, and give it all to her!' Speculating upon it, Palamedes took the infant Telemachus to the sea-shore, where the king of Ithaca, refusing to embark, insanely plowed the sand with a yoke of horses and bulls, and cast the babe into the furrow. Parental love, more strong than the allurements of ease, subdued the crafty hero. He turned the plow away from the body of his boy, and putting on his sword and shield, proceeded upon that campaign from which he did not return for twenty years. This love for offspring—this desire for its safety and appropriate education is an instinct of nature, and stronger even than self-preservation pervades every form of created life. The same matchless tenderness which fills the mother's breast, when the eyes of her first born, for the first time gleam with the sunshine of an awakening intelligence and affection, is also discovered in the agonizing cry of the hunted beast, which, careless of her own life, interposes her bleeding form between the pursuers and her progeny—prolonging even mortal agonies with the hope of their preservation; it speaks in the whispering leaves that canopy the trees of earth; up-

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on every one of which countless colonies crowd a microscopic home ; it is written upon the nebulous depths of ether, where sweeping the skies with his wondrous telescope, the awed observer starts from the star dust, a wilderness of spheres . It is found in the chambers of the deep, down in that dark abyss, where the plummet of all man's works, alone invades the silent floors of the sea, and returns a conqueror, laden with the spoils of triumph. Everywhere present throughout the universe of being, the same parental love thrills the heart of the civilized man and the savage, moistens the eye of the untamed king of the forests ; smiles in the oak whose protecting arms surround its leafy young ; crawls with the worm, and creeps in showers of green and gold, among the flowers and buds, that gem the circling vine. No sooner does each arrive at maturity than evolving from its own bosom the germ of its race, it nurses that germ with its life-blood and substance, devotes its own life to the business of its preservation, yields up without a murmur its own freshness and youth, its beauty and bloom, and even in a death occasioned by its cares, finds a compensating glory in the preservation of the species.

The animal man is distinguished from all life-bearing and producing creatures by the faculty of Reason. Each of them is endowed with a certain individual intelligence, the cultivation of which is the proper business of the race. This is Education. The parent's duty is founded on the fact, that this faculty of Reason is susceptible of cultivation only in youth. ' Unless,' says the philosophic Rousseau, ' a man learns to think while he is yet young, he will never think at all.' The development of a power to think, and the cultivation of the memory, are therefore the objects of all the various systems of teaching youth, which have been or may yet be introduced.—These elementary faculties are to be excited to vitality and action by the application of systematic study and discipline, or the mind of the pupil remains dor-

mant, undeveloped ; like the coal and iron upon Deep River, which, left there in the bowels of the earth, add nothing to the resources of the State, but mined and carried to market, might even enable us to resume and to maintain the independence we surrendered in '89. Alluding to the analogy which exists between the human mind left to itself and the neglected farm, Lord Bacon remarks, ' you have to choose between herbs and weeds, the germs of both are there, but the one must be watered and the other destroyed by the hand of labor.'

To accomplish these purposes, the first thing a boy has to learn at school is a habit of attention. Attention is to science, what the alphabet is to language, and I think it more generally capable of cultivation and improvement, than seems to be supposed by most writers. I think besides, that it is a more universal faculty. The ability to summon the assistance of all the mental powers at any moment they are required, is the highest evidence of genius. The ability to confine them to a single subject of investigation at one time, is an evidence of talent. The latter may be acquired, if the former cannot, and it is indispensable, not only to any progress in learning, but even to a beginning to learn. You may with most boys measure and predict the exact amount of success they will meet in life, by the extent to which the faculty of Attention is enjoyed, or is capable of being cultivated. Once the self-control it requires becomes habitual, the operations of an educated mind, swayed by its influence, seem to the bewildered and admiring observer, like the effects of inspiration. The man is transformed and transfigured. The soul shakes off the body, and is itself visible. We think of the splendid description of Hamlet :

' What a *piece of work* is a man ! How noble in reason ; how infinite in faculties ; in form and moving how express and admirable ; in action how like an Angel ; in apprehension how like a God !'

Long after the beauties of the Greek and Latin shall have been so completely naturalized in English, as that we will cease to regard them as the only true standards of literary excellence, and may one day even exclude them from the curriculum of practical study, they will be recommended to the student as a means of acquiring and retaining this control over the operations and powers of his mind; and this, too, is the object proposed by the study of the pure mathematics. Observation convinces me, however, that too exclusive a study of Law, Mathematics, Languages, or any other science, deprives the mind of common sense, and begets habits of intolerance. Madame DeStael used to account for the ill-temper of some of her cotemporaries, by the suggestion that they were Mathematicians. I can conceive of few beings more completely isolated, than a mere lawyer, especially if he be a first-rate one. With him everything is 'a case,' and every incident of the day involves 'points' of more or less obscurity and importance. He sees no joke unless through the quaint media of trespass assumpsit or replevin. Show him a fine prospect, he thinks of the action of Ejectment. Take him to a wedding, he remembers the settlements of a hundred generations, and going to a funeral will perplex and worry himself with the doctrine of Wills and Executors, while a dear friend is being lowered into the common receptacle of decaying humanity. Some great lawyers have been wits, but not many, and their wit was always of that quaint and musty sort, that could not be appreciated beyond the bar. I happened once to be present in a party of gentlemen, all lawyers, one of whom was a wit; one a great lawyer then and now upon the State Bench, then and now remarkable for the force and beauty of his reason upon purely legal questions, then and now suspected of being insensible to a joke or pleasantry, unless connected in some way near or remote with a question of law. An eminent practitioner, whom I

will not name or describe, approaching him familiarly, said, 'Well Judge, what do you think of my great Equity speech to-day? I give up, that the law argument was not worth much, but I insist that, (and here he looked jocular) my Equity speech was good.' 'Well' said His Honor, with deliberation, 'as you say, the law speech was a failure; but I rather doubt, whether under all the circumstances the Equity argument was not *the worst of the two*!'—The gentleman already alluded to, thinking such frankness on the part of the Judge rather more honest than agreeable, and that he might as well interpose to explain the misunderstanding, here observed, that the lawyers quere and the result, reminded him of a story he had once heard of a dog, that one neighbour sold to another and warranted to be a good possum dog. The dog having turned out to be worthless in that particular, the purchaser enquired why he was supposed to be a good possum dog. 'Oh that,' said the first owner, is very easily explained, 'you see, that I know he *is a good dog*, and I tried him with coons; I tried him with partridges, and I tried him with wild duck and with deer; in fact I tried him with every thing *but* possum, and he failed in all, except that; but he was a good dog, and so I thought he must be a good possum dog, because he had not been tried with possum.'

The judge who had listened to this anecdote with much attention, was evidently puzzled to see the point. At last after several explanations had been made, an idea seemed to strike him, and to make the story intelligible.

'Your notion is perhaps this, said he, 'that the dog is like that estate of freehold which Blackstone and other writers describe by the long periphrase of a 'tenant-in-tail-after-possibility-of-issue-extinct,' simply because it cannot be described by any shorter title, or in fewer words. This happens, he says, where one is tenant in special tail, and a person from whose

body the issue was to spring dies without issue, or having left issue, that issue becomes extinct. Here the tenant surviving the special tail, becomes tenant in tail after the possibility of issue is extinct, and without that long periphrase, you can form, says the law, no adequate idea of his estate. For, if you call him 'tenant-in-fee-tail-special,' that would not have distinguished him from others, and besides, would not be correct, for he has now no inheritance. If you call him 'tenant-in-tail-without-issue,' that would only have described the present state of facts, and would not exclude a future possibility. Call him 'tenant-in-tail-without-possibility-of-issue,' and you exclude the idea of a succession that was at one time possible. No definition can, therefore, so appropriately and exactly describe the estate as one which, with a precision peculiar to our law, not only takes in all these possibilities, but states that they are now extinguished and gone. I think that I can now see,' continued His Honor, 'the point you wish to make. The dog in our case, can neither be called a coon dog, a partridge dog, or a wild duck or deer dog, but being a good dog—good for something—it followed he was a good possum dog. He was either that, or he was no dog at all; and the application is this, that for that whereas, our friend admits, that he does not know the common law, and we know he is a good lawyer, why he must be a good Equity lawyer, because he must either be that or nothing. All of which,' concluded His Honor gravely, 'is perfectly clear, and as was at first remarked, somewhat funny.'

I believe we all laughed more at this learned exposition, than we did at any other part of the whole incident. It illustrates the point I make, that no one faculty of the mind ought to be cultivated to the exclusion of others.

My young friends, in the formation of character and the building up of a great name, the possession of the most splendid abilities, can never be adequate-

ly displayed until the moment of an adverse encounter. Like a bird of paradise flying against the wind, the mind gains grace and vigor by the storm it encounters, and in adverse currents shows its brightest plumage. So too in the acquirement of knowledge and the development of the intellectual or teachable faculty, nothing truly great or admirable was ever yet done or acquired without labor. The cultivation of the Attention in particular, requires at first a severe struggle. It is essentially a painful operation, but let the student be not discouraged. Tell him to summon all his resolution, and a triumph great and permanent, bearing results equivalent to the struggle, awaits him.

When I began the study of law at Charleston in 1841, among the young gentlemen I met in the office of my instructor, was one who has since reached the highest rank in his profession as an advocate, and who was willingly *locked up* before he could summon the resolution to submit to a three hours sitting. Depend upon it, no man who cannot study three hours at a sitting with ease and profit, will ever rise above mediocrity, and those who have most filled the world with their writings and fame, have most usually confined themselves to no more extended exertion. The mind needs recreation as well as repose, an interval of study should be followed by one of amusement, exertion by rest, and application to one branch relieved by application to another, the memory all the while being taught to recal and to record the steps of this intellectual progress.

In a little while after habits of study are acquired, the student will learn to prefer some branches of study to others, and in each branch particular writers and styles of thought. Now, the moment he perceives the dawn of this like and dislike, if he will apply himself to ascertain and classify the causes of the preference, he will begin the study and cultivation of the most delightful exercise of the human

mind. I mean the art of criticism. By close observation the student will discover that every sensation of pleasure or disappointment which he realizes in any literary performance whatever, is the result of certain known causes, and is not always the effect of accident, or indicative merely of the possession or the want of rare intellectual endowments. In other words, from the art of Rhetoric we learn that it is as easy to construct a good poem or oration, as it is to build a wagon, or to hammer out with brain and sweat and muscle the curves of the horse-shoe.

Young gentlemen, be not discouraged, but by all means be not deceived. You must not suffer yourselves to dream that those great master works of human genius which survive the flight of ages and resisting time with more success than if built of brass or marble, indicate a geology in the language they preserve as well as adorn—you must not dream, I say, that these splendid works were the results of inspiration, or of any other process than earnest educated labor. Many of you have doubtless read and admired the splendid peroration to Mr. Webster's reply to Hayne in the debate upon Foot's Resolution.

'When my eyes,' says the speaker 'shall be turned to behold for the last time the sun in the heavens, may I not see him shining on the broken and dishonored fragments of a once glorious union; on States dissevered, discordant, belligerent; on a land rent with civil feuds, and drenched, it may be, in fraternal blood! Let their last feeble and lingering glance rather behold the gorgeous ensign of the Republic, now known and honored throughout the earth, still full high advanced, its arms and trophies streaming in their original lustre; not a stripe erased or polluted, nor a single star obscured; its ample folds blazing in characters of living light as they float over the sea and over the land, and in every wind under the whole heavens, with the sentiment dear to every American heart—Liberty and

Union, now and forever, one and inseparable !'

I have seen it stated some where, that this fine composition, like all others of which any honest account has reached us, cost the labor of many an hour. The liberty which I have taken with it, shows that it is not yet perfect, but in any form in which it can be presented to an audience, it will live as long as the language itself.

The last consideration by which I will invite you, to cultivate habits of attention and labor is, that you will thereby as a speaker or writer always secure the attention of others. The chief cause of the failure of professional men is indolence, and not incapacity,—that indolence which despises order and arrangement in public discourses, and which inevitably leads to the vice of prolixity and elaborate dullness.

Attention and Memory being thus acquired and cultivated, nothing remains to enable any student of reasonable industry and intelligence to master some one department of human knowledge, and to attain in it a qualified degree of eminence, but application. The little amount of diligence and labor required for success in the practice of those professions,—by way of pleasantry still called 'learned' is amazing.—Books upon all subjects have multiplied so fast, that it is no longer tedious or difficult to become even learned in any subject under investigation.

I am not contending that without extraordinary gifts, joined to such opportunities as are not furnished except in Europe, you can excel in all the sciences; but only this, that in this State, and upon this continent, any man of ordinary intelligence and resolution, who will devote himself sedulously and exclusively to a single branch of science, will in due time attain respectability and even eminence therein, irrespective of what is fancifully called '*natural* ability.' And further; that (as a law writer has also remarked) the sciences being sociable—flourishing best in the neighborhood of each other, success in one in-

dicates a capacity for all others which are inferior or collateral, nothing being required to secure it but ordinary sense, extraordinary industry and the unconquerable will to succeed.

Besides the development of the thinking faculty which is the result of Attention and Memory combined with application, the student in a school of this character, should be able to acquire some little acquaintance with the names and characteristic styles of the living and dead authors. Each of these styles or modes of handling a subject contain as much individuality as the hand-writing in which they are reduced; and a thoroughly educated man can as readily and confidently declare a passage to be from Shakspeare or Dante, or if in Latin from Virgil or Lucretius, as a hatter or boot-maker will distinguish a Genin or a Didot a Paris, from the ordinary manufacture. Nay, I have known men so skilled in bibliography that they could tell by one glance at the type and paper, whether any given book was published in London, Paris, Boston or Philadelphia, and by whom. The faculty of distinguishing the peculiarities of style is of the most importance, because it will enable you to improve your own by comparison and observation.

In the course of his remarkable wanderings after the destruction of Troy, it is said that Ulysses entered at night the land of perpetual gloom, and, according to the custom of those days, having offered a propitiatory sacrifice, he stood in the presence of the mighty dead: he saw the heros and heroines of former days, and even talked with their shades; but overcome at last by fright; their numbers, and the natural excitement of such a scene, the hero hastily retired, and thus lost the entire fruits of his journey.

Young gentlemen, you have no occasion to expose yourselves to any such terrors. The art of printing has placed within your reach all that is great or worth knowing or remembering in the past or the passing time. Stretch forth your hand, and you may meet in

welcome embrace, Homer, Cicero, Bacon, Goethe, Schiller, Shakespere, Dante, Milton, or Lord Byron. Dead though they be—like the prophet Samuel at the call of the despairing prince of Israel—they will appear at the moment of your bidding. No further sacrifice is necessary than the price of the last edition and neither at Mr. Pomeroy's or at Mr. Turner's will you hazard a rencontre with the witch of Endor. The departed Gods of earth, no longer hide in remote caverns, guarded by obscene and hideous spectres. Their spirits walk abroad, and in the grand and polished tones of modern language, resume the habiliment of life. Stretched at full length, beneath these cool and spreading oaks, upon the grassy lawn, the bright sunshine sparkling in the waters at your feet, and the humming bee and the perfume of flowers, dissipating the fantasy of a ghost, you may here or anywhere, now or hereafter, place yourself in Hade's and commune at ease with the shades of Agamemnon and Achilles. Instead of Mentor, let our Telemachus take with him on each journey an Anthon and an Ainsworth or a Webster, and whether the oracle speaks English, Latin or Greek, never let him go until by a free consultation with his dictionary, he finds every word he utters intelligible.—Proceeding slowly at first, your future progress will assuredly be more easy and delightful.

I alluded a few moments ago to the probability that the study of the Greek and Latin poets and orators would one day be abolished in our higher schools and intimated that already they rather bridle than assist the match horses of Application and Memory. I would not of course, be understood as attempting to depreciate the advantages of a classical education, especially to such as intend to pursue the Mechanical sciences, Architecture, Painting, Engineering—civil and military, Sculpture and the like. In correct appreciation and knowledge of the principles of these arts, we are yet inferior to the ancients, and our best

attempts in their imitation, are elaborate failures.— We stand under the splendid creations of their Mechanical genius like dwarfs or pigmies beside giants, but looking at their authors and literary achievements, I do not think we need be ashamed of the comparison. Shakspeare is not only the equal but in most respects he is the superior to both Horace and Virgil. I think Edmund Burke and John C. Calhoun more than equal to Aristotle—and there are passages in the speech of Daniel Webster in reply to Hayne, and in the oration at the laying of the corner stone of the Bunker Hill Monument which as far excel the florid egotisms of Cicero and Demosthenes, as the “Code Napoleon” surpasses the laws which Lycurgus gave to Sparta, and wickedly and vainly supposing them perfect, exacted an oath from the people, that they should never be altered or repealed. In the present condition of the world, the study of American history, especially by you, would be I think of far more practicable advantage than that of any other State ancient or modern, and in the present condition of language and the increased facilities for intercourse with all parts of the world, I question very much whether the study of modern languages and literature, would not prove of more substantial use than Greek or Latin. It is not unlikely that the number of languages now spoken in the world is less than formerly for obvious reasons, and yet there are still three thousand, of which twelve hundred and sixty six are in use upon this continent alone, 587 in Europe, and 276 in Africa.

It is amazing to think how little the great mass of even educated men in this country, know of Washington and of Shakspeare. On the continent of Europe, such ignorance of the chief characters of their history and especially of their literature in a Frenchman or German, would be deemed inexcusable. Try any one of the hundreds of humble emigrants of the latter class, you meet daily in our larger towns, and

you will find few or none, who have not read some one or all of the works of Schiller and Goethe. The educated classes can not only recite whole passages from them, but are familiar also with other of their poets, and he who knows and estimates correctly that appreciation for literature and especially their own literature which distinguishes a German, will need no letter of introduction in "Fader land."

During the war of 1847-'8, I made the acquaintance in Mexico of the Baron Von Groen, an officer of the household troops of the King of Prussia. We had had several adventures together upon the campaign known in history as Lally's march, and at the conclusion of hostilities returned in the same ship together. The Baron spoke such good English that I had never had an opportunity of letting him discover how little I knew of his language, although we had been somewhat intimate for many months, and had served together in several engagements. It was on a bright sunny afternoon that we both stood upon the quarter deck of the old steamer Massachusetts, in the harbour of Vera Cruz. My friend leaned over the taffrail, and gazed in profound meditation upon the frowning battlements of the Castle of San Juan D' Ullua. The flitting shadows of that starred rainbow, which eleven years ago rose above those towers, in promise of a political salvation which has not yet been realized, alone interrupted the steady glow which at the moment bathed the flag and staff, the tower and the glorious gulf beyond, in the joyous red and golden hues of a tropical sunset. The Castle looked up from the sea as though it wore a diadem, and rejoiced in a royal robe, I approached my friend without being able to disturb his reverie and alluding to the splendid scene before us, recited the melancholy verse of Uhland :

'Has du das Schloss gesehen,
Das hohe Schloss am Meer,
Golden und rosig wehen,

Die Wolken drüber her."

Scarcely stopping to see who had thus addressed him, and his mind occupied, no doubt, with a similar sentiment or dreaming of the glorious Rhine whose every height is crowned by some old baronial hall, and each has its story of love and chivalry ; he replied to me without a moments hesitation, using the language of the same author, and in the stanza, next but one of the same poem :

‘Wohl hab Ich es gesehen,
Das hohe Schloss am Meer,
Und den Mond darüber stehen,
Und Rebel weit umher !’

Poor fellow ! we parted soon after in the city of New York, never to meet again. He reached Berlin a day or two only before the rebellions of 1848 broke out, and as I have since learned, perished in the defence of his King. While I—I had almost forgotten it am here young gentlemen addressing you upon Education, in the interior of North Carolina.

The last reason I shall urge for the preference of modern history and modern literature is, that the text of the ancient writers has been now so often translated, reviewed, and reprinted, that I undertake to say that if Cicero and Demosthenes were to rise from their graves, and attend this school, I fancy they would find quite as much difficulty as you, in reading and understanding their own orations.—That the suggestion is not simply ridiculous, ask any objector to compare the Lord’s prayer as originally printed and used in England a hundred years ago, with the present version of the same noble supplication.

I have thus attempted, young gentlemen, to enumerate some of the leading facilities this school will afford, if you are honestly disposed to learn, and I have attempted too to suggest one or more of those grand highways, in which your thoughts may safely travel. My remarks have been of necessity general, but you will do yourselves and me no injustice, in

taking whatever you feel to be applicable, as personally addressed to you each.

I must repeat that you will accomplish nothing here or in the world beyond, without labour, diligence, hard study and application. Your parents have put themselves to no small expense in sending you here, and maintaining you while occupied in your studies. They have the right to expect that you will acquit yourselves creditably in the pending examination, and in your future progress. "I learned grammar," says Wm. Cobbett, "when I was a private soldier on the pay of a sixpence a day. The edge of my berth, or that of my guard-bed, was my seat to study in; my knapsack my book case, and a bit of board lying on my lap was my writing table. I had no money to purchase a candle or oil; in winter, it was rarely that I could get any light but the fire, and only my turn even at that. To buy a pen or piece of paper, I was compelled to forego some portion of my food, though in a state of half starvation; I had not a moment to call my own; had to read and write amid the talking, laughing, singing, whistling, and bawling of at least a half a score of the most reckless men—and that, too, in their hours of freedom from all control." And I say if under such circumstances as these, a poor boy, the son of a tavern keeper and indebted to his father for the only teaching he ever received, did rise to the highest rank as a writer and a scholar, there is not a boy in this assembly who ought not to feel himself qualified for at least an honorable mention! Remember there is not a boy in this assembly who is not socially and politically the superior of this illustrious man in the beginning of his career; because there is not a boy here who may not aspire to, and win the highest professional or political distinction this broad and favored land can confer. Not one but may if he chooses be a lawyer, a doctor, a clergyman, a teacher, an editor or a politician, and a highly meritorious one too, provided al-

ways he will willingly undergo the drudgery and labor either of these callings require. In point of real dignity none of them compare however with that of the farmer. A virtuous and educated farmer is the true autocrat of our social system, and the day is rapidly approaching when assuming their proper place in the social scale, a place from which they have been excluded so long, by reason only of the general inferiority of their attainments, men in other occupations will, as in England, retire before them. Every one who can afford it should become a farmer. All other businesses in life should be regarded but as means for acquiring the capital necessary to retire to the country. There is no exercise so healthy and exhilarating; there is no occupation so independent; and whether a man's homestead be measured, like mine, by the square yard, or include a thousand acres, he should occasionally at least water it with the sweat of his brow. A certain amount of physical labor is indispensable to physical and intellectual health, and he who lives wholly on the sweat of other men is a drone unfit for a civilized and progressive community. Read the fourth chapter of Thessalonians, and the multitudinous pages of society and learn, that labor is obedience to law; a blessing and not a curse.

I sincerely trust, that avoiding the bar the pulpit and the hospital, many of you will give to the business of Agriculture, the talents and education you will acquire at this school, and that you will not be ashamed to add a dignity to labor by exhibiting in your own persons the example of educated men, willing according to the apostolic decree, to work with your own hands.

The pathway to the highest *social* distinction is also open to you all. Those inequalities of rank and position which exist elsewhere, prevail also in the world around us, and it is useless folly to pretend to ignore or to despise them. As the poet saith,

"Order is Heaven's first law, and this confessed,
Some are and must be greater than the rest."

'The only land,' it is truly said, 'in which perfect liberty prevails is the land of dreams. The night cap, is the cap of liberty.' An 'aristocracy' of some sort, is a social necessity. Whatever be the form of government, the few will rule; whatever be the form of society, men will differ in point of talent, wealth, virtue and cultivation. These give rise invariably and inevitably to differences of position. Let your efforts be always directed to the elevation of the virtuous and the capable whatever be their origin; and of an 'aristocracy' so composed, you need never be ashamed, nay, you owe it to yourselves to be members. Every white man born in this part of the world, of honest parents, is a gentleman, and can only descend from that position by his own folly or viciousness, or the neglect of his parents to qualify him to be agreeable. We have no "masses of people," as that term is understood and contemptuously applied in non-slaveholding countries. Our professional men are not usually altogether and exclusively doctors, lawyers or clergymen; they are also farmers; they are engaged in other businesses than these specialities. The farmers are rapidly rising into an educated and powerful class. The "masses of the people" are therefore our 'aristocracy,' or rather they are identical, since nothing but the taint of negro blood, inherent vulgarity and crime disqualify any man here from appearing in reputable society; and, in every party of gentlemen, however exclusive, you will meet persons of almost every honorable occupation.

I trust you will all succeed in reaching whatever is high and noble in the social scale, but failing to reach the summit and forced to be content with a subordinate place, may you never succeed if you should meanly attempt to level that summit to the dust. Whatever be the height which you shall attain, you will find there duties as well as enjoyments. What-

ever may be the obscurity which you may choose, or to which you may be assigned, there too will be found a sphere of happiness and of responsibility.

"Honor and shame from no condition rise,

Act well your part—there all the honor lies."

Another remark and I have done. The preservation of popular institutions in this country depends upon the intelligence and the independence of the people. The educated are usually independent and virtuous, and so long as the population is not overcrowded there is no danger of public liberty ; but, when the people of this land, abandoning the pure air of these scented fields and the simple habits of agricultural life shall stimulate these villages to towns, and these towns into cities, the days of the Republic are numbered. But that day is far off yet. Still are

"— —These rocks Freedom's towers,

These hills her home ; and when she stands

On Times far future shore, she still

Shall see her children o'er them roam,

And up the rolling clouds, her eagles soar !"

Young gentlemen, you will soon be called to administer the government and transmit the rights, which the heroes of the revolution established and acquired by much blood and fearful sacrifice. This great State with all its wealth and woe, its extensive and various mines, its green and cloud capped mountains, its silver rivers, steamers, ships, railways and printing presses, will soon be yours. No thinking man, whose children's fate is thus bound up with yours together, but must feel interested in your progress here and hereafter. May God in his mercy grant, that fully instructed in the responsibility which is about to rest upon you before the age and to posterity, you will come up to the discharge of these duties with a religious zeal, and avert the calamity which seems impending upon our country.

"Let the American youth," says Judge Story,

never forget that they possess a noble inheritance bought by the toils and sufferings and blood of their ancestors, and capable, if wisely improved and safely guarded, of transmitting to their latest posterity all the substantial blessings of life, the peaceful enjoyment of liberty, property, religion and independence. The structure has been erected by architects of consummate skill and fidelity. Its foundations are solid.— Its compartments are beautiful as well as useful. Its arrangements are full of wisdom and order. Its defences are impregnable from without. It has been reared for immortality if the work of man may justly aspire to such a title ! Nevertheless it may perish in an hour by the negligence or the corruption of its only true keepers, the people. Republics are founded in the virtue, public spirit and intelligence of their citizens. They fall when the wise and the independent are banished from the public councils because they dare to be honest, and the profligate and the demagogue are rewarded because they flatter the people, and betray them !”





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Gov: Swain
D. Smith v. N. C.

Chapel Hill. N. C.